

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

Legislature. At that time Senator Bohlke, as Chair, had offered that portion of the committee amendments dealing with the income tax rebate provisions. Senator Wickersham had moved to amend with an amendment that is found on page 790 of the Legislative Journal. That is the amendment before the Legislature at this time. (FA441)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wickersham, would you just like to give us a brief resume of what you had said yesterday.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: (Laugh) Thank you, Madam President. That was about a three-hour discussion, but maybe...

SENATOR CROSBY: I said, what you said.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: (Laugh) Oh, all right. Well,...

SENATOR CROSBY: Synopsis is what I meant.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay, thank you, Madam President. The amendment that is being offered as an alternative to the dollar cap that's proposed in the committee amendments serves, I think, a couple of purposes. One, it continues to allow access to a resource that I think was intended when 1059 was passed, and in fact I think a number of voters that are still in the state of Nebraska, not all of them have died or moved away, knew, when 1059 was passed, that there would be a new resource for their school districts, and that would be 20 percent of their state of Nebraska income tax paid. LB 1050, as it stands on the committee amendments, does still allow some access to that resource, but caps it at what I would characterize as an arbitrary number of \$83 million. The amendment that I'm offering caps it at a percentage of the total state aid, and it caps it at 26.7. The advantage of the amendment that I'm offering is, of course, that it allows greater access to the resource than does the proposed committee amendment, and in addition, over time, will allow growth in the access to that resource, both of which, at least the growth...allowing access to growth in the resource, I think, is consistent with the original intent of 1059. That, I think, is the issue in a nutshell. There was a considerable amount of discussion about peripheral issues, but I think that is the core of the issue. And I won't take up further time to discuss the issue in detail without putting on my light. Others may also wish to continue